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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Nobuyuki MORI et al.	Atty. Dkt.: VX062739 PCT
Serial No.: Unassigned	Group Art Unit:
Filed: Concurrently herewith	Examiner:
Title: MULTILAYER TUBE FOR TRANSFER OF SMOKE CURING SOLUTION TO FOOD	

Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22314

Date: May 9, 2006

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 applicant hereby notifies the United States Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO-1449 form and which the Examiner may deem relevant to the patentability of the claims in the above-identified application. One copy of the listed foreign language documents is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (1) no later than three months from the application's filing date or (2) before the mailing date of an Office Action on the merits (whichever is later), and therefore no certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required. ✓

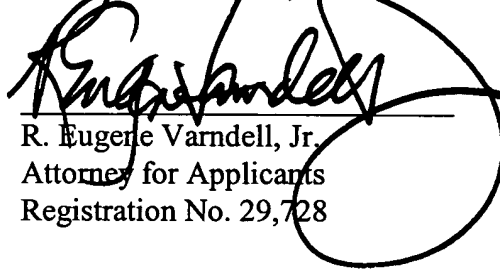
In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for the listed foreign language documents, applicant encloses herewith a copy of a corresponding foreign search report citing each of these documents, together with an English-version of that portion of the search report indicating the degree of relevance (if not already included) found by the foreign office.

It is respectfully requested that the examiner initial or otherwise mark one copy of forms PTO-1449 and forward the same to the applicants indicating that the documents listed thereon have been considered.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, applicant hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee therefor, as well as any deficiency in the payment of the required fee(s) or credit any overpayment, to our deposit account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,
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FORM PTO-1449	ATTY. DKT NO.	VX062739 PCT	SER. NO.	10/578684
	APPLICANT	Nobuyuki MORI et al.		
	FILING DATE	May 9, 2006	GROUP	

REFERENCE DESIGNATION

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS
		6,251,449	6/26/01	Hammer et al.		

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

TRANSLATION

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	YES	NO	Eng. Abstract
		JP 001-192483 A	7/17/01	JAPAN						X
		EP-1-380-212	1/14/04	EPO						
		EP-0-797-918	10/1/97	EPO						

* Full English text is available in machine-translated form in JPO (Japanese Patent Office) English language web site at <http://www1.ipdl.jpo.go.jp/PA1/cgi-bin/PA1INDEX>.

OTHER REFERENCES (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

EXAMINER		DATE CONSIDERED